



THE PRESERVATIONIST

JULY/AUGUST 2021

Officers:

Steven Grant, *President*

Michael Bosak, *Vice President, Education,*
The Preservationist Editor

Karen Day, *Vice President, Programs/Events*

Jay Groah, *Acting Secretary*

Phil Kernan, *Treasurer*

Dianne Nassar, *Assistant Treasurer*

Trustees:

Boyd Bissell

Don Dorn

Joan Dorn

Michael Gentile

Jay Groah

Paul Hage

Michael Lehman

Alexis Nassar

Trustees Emeriti:

Janet Blaney

Mary Lyons Bradley

Rand Carter

Phyllis Draper

Virginia Kelly

Judy Olney

Bart Rasmus

Bertha Romanow

A Message from the President

Dear Landmarkers,

Sadly, the summer of 2021 has been uneventful for the Society so far. But that is about to change! I am elated to share with you all that we have some events scheduled for the rest of the year. Obviously, we will not be able to have our usual slate of activities due to the late start, but we are beyond excited to get started with what we can offer this year. More information about the events will be in this newsletter. So, read on and don't forget to mark the dates on your calendars!

We are still optimistic about getting some roof restoration work done sometime later this summer or early fall on the Munn House (#1 Rutger Park). We recently met with a contractor about the work that could be done and a tentative time frame for it to start. Unfortunately, there are many variables that might impact these plans. Time will tell on what we get accomplished this year. Later this month, we will be meeting with an architect that specializes in historic preservation. He will be giving us guidance on the roof slope and pitch that we need in order for the rain and melting snow to run off. If you remember, the lack of slope and some significant sagging with some of the roof structure was the cause of our reoccurring leaks.

Going back to my opening paragraph, I stated something that was incorrect. The summer of 2021 has not been completely uneventful. Last month, the Society rented the #3 mansion out for a family gathering, which was the first time the home was used for something like that since the fall of 2019. We also gave a tour last month of the #1 mansion to another area organization. They waited over a year for that tour, as they were scheduled to tour the home last summer. Their tour was the first mansion tour since Boilermaker weekend 2019. I could not have been more happy while I welcomed everyone into those homes. I was overjoyed to see activity at Rutger Park again! As I mentioned before, it was heartbreaking to see the property setting idle last year. The summer of 2020 was truly the uneventful one.

Please join me in making last summer a distant memory. I hope to see you all this summer while we all get back to normal!

Steve Grant

President



P: 315.732.7376

E: uticalandmarks@gmail.com
Uticalandmarks.org



JULY/AUGUST 2021



Table of Contents

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE	1
ROCK THE WALL FUNDRAISER	2
BACK THE PORCH FUNDRAISER	2
UPCOMING EVENTS	3
MISSION STATEMENT	3
SPECIAL THANKS	3
THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS	3
NEWS FROM GREATER UTICA	4-5
SAVE THE DATE	5
SCENIC & HISTORIC	6-7
MONDAY WALKS & TALKS	7
DEMOLISHED HOMES	8

MERCHANDISING

Our Merchandise Committee is at work with plans to increase our Landmarks Society shop. New ideas include mugs, glassware, t-shirts, and so much more are being considered.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE AN EMAIL VERSION OF OUR NEWSLETTERS - CONTACT US AT 315-732-7376.



STAY TUNED FOR FUTURE DETAILS!



3 Rutger Park : Utica's National Historic Landmark

ROCK THE WALL

200th Anniversary Restoration Fundraiser



The original rock wall that borders Rutger Street I
It requires some much-needed restoration work.

Historic Rutger Park, Utica, NY



3 Rutger Park : Utica's National Historic Landmark

BACK THE PORCH

A Restoration Fundraiser to rebuild and restore
the front and rear porches of #3 Rutger Park.

Historic Rutger Park, Utica, NY



**"We will probably be judged not by the monuments
we build but by those we have destroyed."**

New York Times Editorial, October 30, 1963,
in response to the demolition of Penn Station

UPCOMING EVENTS



Rutger Park Mansion Tours: We are back and our historic Mansions have missed all the hustle and bustle of guests in their walls. On July 31st we will be open for Mansion Tours. So join us for a walk through of both Mansions - No. 1 and No. 3, Come see how all that we have done on the No. 1. Much thanks to our wonderful Benefactor Robert Gipson and his Tianaderrah Foundation.

We will have expert guides who will share with you the history of these historic landmarks, the architecture and those who lived in these homes from the 1800s forward. Our community had great historic presence and much of it started here behind the stone walls of Rutger Park.

At the end of the tour, we welcome you to join us for Ice Cream Sundaes in Rutger #3 Great Room or weather permitting out on the glorious grounds of Rutger Park.

Will you be hosting friends and families this weekend? Why not stop by for tours and then wander over to Munson Williams for their Annual Art and Car Show.

Cost: \$15.00 per person, \$12.00 for Veterans and \$10.00 for children – All proceeds will benefit the Landmarks Society's mission to

restore and preserve these historic Mansions and their history – Tours will be hourly.

Harvest Tea: Sunday September 19th – We know you missed our Spring Teas so we are going to host a Harvest Tea. All the fun of our Spring Time Teas, but celebrating the Autumn Harvest. We will have an array of interesting Teas for all to try along with some of the freshest goodies to taste. Once again, Betty Abel Jellenchich will be our Honorary Hostess. Enjoy your tea served by the Men of Landmarks Society.



Your choice of 2 seatings – 11am and 2:30 pm. Tickets will go on sale in August for \$25.00 – So don't forget to order yours.

Returning in October: Look for further Information on our Website, FB, and Newsletter.

Paranormal Event, Walk and Talk Tours, Haunted Halloween Story Tours

Looking for Volunteers, to help with Events, Tour guides, maintenance and grounds.

Looking for Grants persons to help with Grant writing, and Fundraising.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Landmarks Society is to actively promote the preservation and restoration of historically and architecturally significant buildings and sites in the Utica area. Through projects, community education, advocacy, marketing and planned activities, the Society engages its members, partners and the community in preserving the past and protecting the future.

The Landmarks Society was chartered by the State of New York in October 1974 as a nonprofit, educational corporation. The purposes for which the Landmarks Society was created include the following: 1) To protect, enhance, perpetuate and preserve buildings, landmarks and other districts of historic, architectural and cultural significance; and 2) To acquire by purchase, gift, devise, or otherwise, the title to, or the custody and control of sites, buildings and areas of historical and cultural significance."

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR NEW & RENEWING MEMBERS!

Francesca Deierlein
Robert Sheldon
Barbara Jo Carino
Doris Harf

Ronald & Charleen Pernat
Jill & Tom Spellman
Mary Lawrence Owens

During these Covid times, please consider a donation to The Landmarks Society to help further our mission of Historic Preservation.

Please consider The Landmarks Society in your Estate and Legacy planning.

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS!



1423 Genesee St, Utica, NY 13501
315 797 9033 • (mobile) 315 790 9315
stay@rosemontinnbb.com



A division of V. Ficchi, Inc. | A Family Company Since 1917

100 Mathews Avenue, Utica, NY 13502
phone (315) 724-8829 • fax (315) 724-0861
www.anchorheating.com



GROAH GROUP
KELLEN WILLIAMS HONOLULU VALLEY



Historic Verona Beach Lighthouse Will Shine Again

A New York State initiative entitled **The Iconic Lighting Program** (a segment of the larger **Reimagine the Canals** program) that pairs the New York State Power Authority (NYPA) with the NYS Canal Corporation will assist the Verona Beach Lighthouse to shine once again on the eastern shores of nearby Oneida Lake. A total of \$300 million is earmarked between these two agencies over a five year period to upgrade and highlight important and iconic portions of the NYS Canal system. This is in addition to the NYPA’s annual budget of \$140 million earmarked for the continued operation, maintenance and infrastructure improvements of the canal, as they are the overseeing agency. Oneida Lake is an integral part of the canal system between Verona Beach to the east and Brewerton on the west.



PHOTOS FROM THE VERONA BEACH LIGHTHOUSE ASSOCIATION FACEBOOK PAGE

The goal of the joint NYPA and Canal Corporation collaboration is to highlight and improve important canal features and to make them into potential heritage tourism destinations. It is hoped that this effort will help to keep the canal system active and an economic engine well into the future. While the canal was originally built for commercial traffic as an upgrade to the original and historic Erie Canal, it has gradually shifted focus to more recreational use.

The lighthouse was built in 1915 by the Buffalo company Lufer and Remick along with two others on the lake near the western outlet at Brewerton.

An initial cleanup recently began as the NYPA crews power-washed the exterior of the structure before LED lighting is installed around it. All work is subject to review by the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (SHPO).

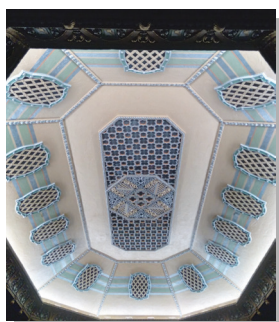
The not-for-profit Verona Beach Lighthouse Association is an all-volunteer charitable organization dedicated to the preservation and restoration of this lighthouse. The group was officially formed in 2002; its current president is Ray Hanson. The group is thrilled with the work being done to improve and call positive attention to the lighthouse, although there is some concern about increased traffic and the small area dedicated to parking.

The lighthouse is located on 4th Avenue, Verona Beach, NY. Parking is limited.

For more information on the Reimagine the Canals Program, visit www.ny.gov/programs/reimagine-canals-initiative.

The Verona Beach Lighthouse Association will host a meet and greet and a membership drive at the Sylvan Beach American Legion Post 1153 on Saturday, July 24th, 2021. Association membership is \$5/year. For additional information, visit their website at veronabeachlighthouse.com.

The Capitol Theatre Restoration, Part 2



We reported in the last edition of *The Preservationist* of the dramatic improvements, renovations and restorations that are currently underway at The Capitol Theatre at 230 West Dominick Street in Rome. However, those renovations are far more extensive than meets the eye.

It is the only original movie palace in Rome that is still being used for its original purpose of showing moving pictures and one of the few remaining historic buildings in downtown. The historic 1,788-seat theatre opened on December 10, 1928. Some renovations occurred in 1939, primarily to the front façade. The majority of the most recent work will be showcased in a Grand Re-Opening on July 17th beginning at 6:30 p.m.



The carpeting has been totally replaced with brand new with the exact same original pattern. Seating has been replicated in the same design, with a modern touch – cup holders, tastefully and inconspicuously placed on the backs of the chairs directly in front. Lighting fixtures have been restored and the lighting upgraded. A great deal of attention was given to original design or to the 1939 renovations if and where it was practicable. The original design for the marquee is currently being recreated and will be showcased with a ceremonial relighting when completed later this year.

According to Executive Director Art Pierce, the project was made possible through award of a portion of a grant from Rome’s Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) grant as administered through New York State to the Capitol Civic Center, Inc.

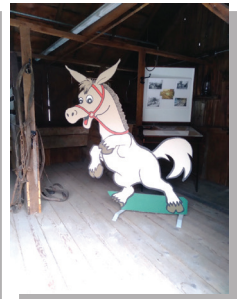
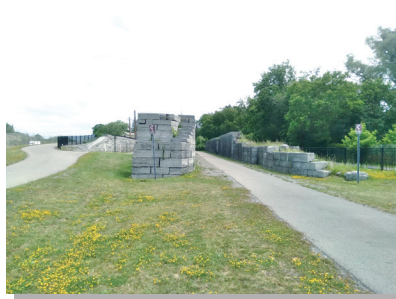
The Capitol's original Moller theatre organ, a rare gem indeed, has also received some much-needed restoration work.

Capitolfest also returns this year for its 18th iteration on August 13th with a program that was previously scheduled to run in 2020. It is a series of rare silent films and very early talking motion pictures. All movies shown in the main theatre are 35mm films shown on their carbon-arc variable speed projectors. They are obtained from a number of sources, including the Library of Congress, the Eastman Museum, the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), the UCLA Film and Television Archive, Universal Pictures, and from private collections. The silent films are accompanied by classic and authentic silent film "soundtracks" heard on the Moller organ.

More information and updates can be found on the Capitol's website: www.romecapitol.com and on the Capitolfest Facebook page.

Old Erie Canal Heritage

Ever wonder what that "newish" building is off of the New York State Thruway eastbound lane at Port Byron adjacent to the original dual Erie Canal locks? It is the Visitor's Center for the **Port Byron Old Erie Canal Heritage Park**. Located at 1575 Rooker Drive in Port Byron, it is an official New York State **Path Through History** site at Thruway milepost 308.9 in the Finger Lakes region located at the site of the 200-foot long former lock 52. The site includes walks through the lock with a glimpse of authentic life as it was in the mid-19th to early-20th century, including a beautifully restored Erie Canal tavern, the Erie House Tavern and Hotel, a mule barn and blacksmith shop. It is a destination on the Erie Canalway Heritage Corridor. The park is run and manned in collaboration with The Canal Society of New York State, the Thruway Authority, the NYS Canal Corporation, Federal Highway Administration, the NYS Department of Transportation, and Cayuga County. It opened in 2016. It is open seven days a week from 9:00 am until 6:00 pm. Free Admission.



Save the Date

The Landmarks Society's Annual Dinner, Meeting, and Awards Ceremony returns after last year's pandemic cancellation!

The Landmarks Society returns to this historic and storied venue. The Golf Club was founded in 1897.

Did You Know? "Yahundasis" means "around the hill".

Location: Yahundasis Golf Club

Date: Thursday, November 18th, 2021

Time: Cocktail Hour 6:00pm -7:00pm (cash bar), followed by dinner, program and awards ceremony

Details will be provided in upcoming issues of The Preservationist – stay tuned!



INTERESTED IN BEING MORE INVOLVED WITH LANDMARKS?

The Landmarks Society of Greater Utica is looking for "a few good people" to fill several vacancies on the Board of Trustees. We are meeting once a month on the second Wednesday.

If you are interested, please contact us at:
315.732.7376 or at uticalandmarks@gmail.com

Preserving the Past – Protecting the Future

Scenic & Historic

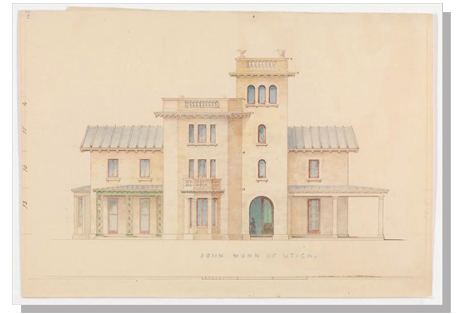
SPOTLIGHT ON A LANDMARK - by Michael Lehman, AIA

One Rutger Park: Munn's Castle (1854)

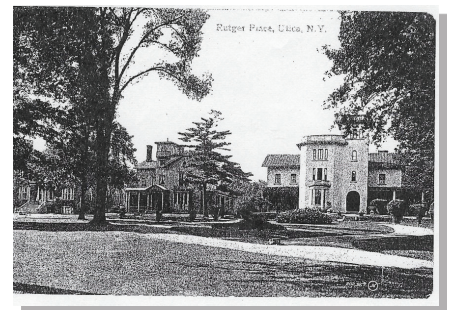
Rutger Street at Howard Avenue, Utica, NY

TIMELINE

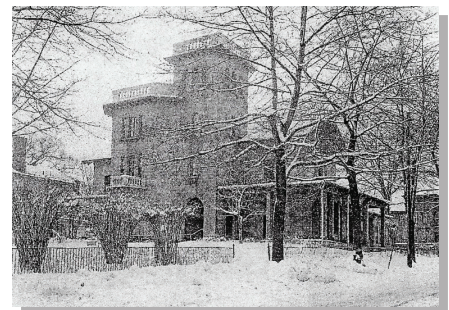
- 1813 Preeminent 19th century American architect Alexander Jackson Davis lives in Utica as a child. He credits this time for his gaining an "eye for architecture".
- 1852 Rutger Bleecker Miller, son of Judge Morris Miller, subdivided the original Miller's seat (Folly) grounds. First subdivision house was #2 Rutger Park (now gone), built by attorney J. Wyman Jones. It was based on a plan which Alexander J. Davis provided for his friend Andrew Jackson Downing. Downing was a noted landscape architect of the day, who published it as Design VI, "a villa in the Italian style, bracketed", in his book *Cottage Residences* (1842).
- 1854 Architect Alexander Jackson Davis designed an Italian villa style house for John and Mary Jane Munn. The mansion is considered one of the finest examples of the Italianate villa style in the country. John was a banker, originally from New England, who returned to Utica with his southern wife after making a fortune in Mississippi. Mrs. Munn entertained lavishly in "true southern style" with the help of her butler, Samuel Dove. Plans & specifications along with other Davis papers are in the Metropolitan Museum of Art.
- 1860 According to the NYS Census, Mary A. McCarthy (22) was one of three servants of the Munn family. She is believed to have been the mother of "Billy the Kid".
- 1864 Mrs. Munn sells the mansion to Samuel Remington- VP of Remington Arms.
- 1868 Remington family moves to Europe. Sold to Ellen and John C. Devereux- Utica mayor (1839-1840) and co-founder of the "Gold-Dome" Savings Bank of Utica.
- 1879 Sold to Walter Jerome Green Sr. & his wife Sarah Swartwout Green. Green was a graduate of Cazenovia Seminary and Madison (now Colgate) University. He practiced law briefly. Makes his fortune in private banking house of Charles Green & Son, the hops trade, and as president of Jacksonville, St. Augustine & Halifax River RR of Florida, which was later sold to H.M. Flagler of NYC.
- 1885 W.J. Green Sr. passes away, stricken with apoplexy. His young son inherits it.
- 1900 Walter J. Green, Jr. updated the house at the turn of the last century with tiled bathrooms, a Utica Fire Alarm Co. phone system, heating system, Colonial revival details, and a newer carriage house c. 907 He owned the 1st horseless carriage in Utica- a 1 seater steam powered Locomobile. The small gasoline-fueled steam engine was under the seat. Was pres. of the Fort Schuyler Club.
- 1951 Green Jr. passes away at 76 & wills the estate to Grace Episcopal Church. Church considers using it as a church school, but are advised against it.
- 1952 Dowling family purchases #1 from the church and converts it into a private nursing home, where Mrs. Dowling also lives. Also used as a tourist home.
- 2004 Mrs. Dowling passes away. The house sits vacant.
- 2008 LSGU purchases #1 and #3, and #2 site vacant lot from Dowling estate.
- 2018 The Tianaderrah Foundation, an out-of-town donor, generously offers to partially fund a part of the massive ongoing stabilization efforts undertaken by



A.J. DAVIS RENDERING- ONE RUTGER PARK NORTH FAÇADE FROM RUTGER PLACE, 1854



3, 2, AND 1 (L. TO R.) RUTGER PARK C. 1900



ONE RUTGER PARK C. 1955

LSGU. Going forward, we are hoping that this support coming from outside the community will motivate local donors and governments to step forward and do their part to help preserve this valuable part of Utica's unique identity. One Rutger Park is a building of local, state, and national architectural, cultural, and historic significance.

2021 Stabilization work has continued-completely reliant on donations- and slowed by the COVID pandemic, budget breaking wildly escalating material costs, and manpower shortages.

2023 15th anniversary of LSGU acquisition of #1 Rutger Park, #2 lot and #3 mansion.
#1 Rutger Park will be 169 years old.

NOTE: By way of clarifying some ongoing misunderstanding, Landmarks Society of Greater Utica is an independent, all volunteer, non-profit (which receives no government funding) that has been serving the greater Utica community for almost 50 years. We have no paid professional staff.

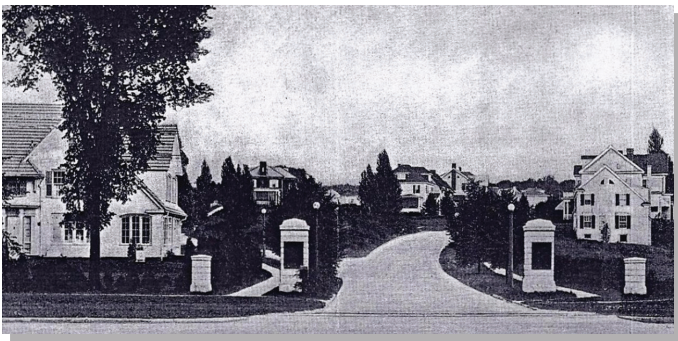
To be clear, although we are fortunate to be able to frequently partner with the Oneida County History Center (OCHC), LSGU is a completely separate organization with similar goals.

When you pay your OCHC membership or generously donate to the annual OCHC telethon-a very worthy cause and an amazing community resource- you are NOT donating to the Landmarks Society. LSGU does not receive any financial support from the OCHC telethon.

2021 Monday Walks & Talks

PROCTOR BOULEVARD

Utica's Olmsted Garden Neighborhoods 1913-1929



Monday, July 19, 2021 | 6PM

Back by popular request

Come step back in time to 1913 when the developers of Proctor Blvd. had only a hillside parcel near a creek, a vision, and the foresight to engage one of America's premiere landscape architects and urban planners to layout a residential area that true to the advertisements of the day still holds its value as an investment- a very desirable address over one hundred years later. Olmsted Brothers design features implemented from 1913 to 1929 and individual homes

ranging from the work of talented local architects to a Sears and Roebuck kit house will be highlighted during the tour. Come join us- a midsummer evening is the perfect time to explore this delightful Olmsted garden neighborhood and learn about some of the original residents. Meet opposite the Genesee Street entrance

Guide: Michael Lehman- AIA

Monday, August 16 | 6PM

North George Street, Rome, NY

Presented by Franklin Berry

503 - 600 N. George St. | Meet in front of 503 N. George

Featured will be 512 N. George, the Lingsley Mansion, and 507 N. George, the Mills House which was placed on the National Historic Register in 1997. Architectural styles will include Neo Gothic, Victorian Gothic, Italianate, and more.



THE PRESERVATIONIST



TWO HOUSES THAT WERE DEMOLISHED ON THE CORNER OF GENESEE AND HOPPER STREETS TO MAKE WAY FOR THE RUTTER MEMORIAL BUILDING/BOY SCOUT HQ, INCLUDING THE RUTTER HOMESTEAD ON THE LEFT.